



Lake County Coastal Plan Committee Minutes

February 24, 2010

The Lake County Coastal Plan Committee hereby finds and determines that all formal actions were taken in an open meeting of the Lake County Coastal Plan Committee and that all the deliberations of the Planning Commission and its committees, if any, which resulted in formal actions, were taken in meetings open to the public in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Chairman Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Lake County Planning Commission in Painesville and welcomed visitors Ms. Nancy Steele, Perry Township Trustee, Mr. Fred Haas of Eastlake and new North Perry Village member, Lorrie Taylor.

The Chair asked North Perry Village Mayor Klco to introduce the two new representatives of the Coastal Plan Committee from North Perry Village, Lorrie Taylor and Marc Cicero. Mr Cicero was not in attendance.

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present: Messrs. Advey, Allen, Cain, Gilmer, Martin, McGuirk, Stephenson, Urbanski, Webster, Welch, Zeitz and Ms. Taylor. Staff present: Mr. Boyd, and Ms. Myers.

MINUTES

Mr. Cain moved to approve the November 18, 2009 minutes as submitted. Mr. Welch seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

OLD BUSINESS

Madison Township Park

Mr. Boyd stated that Madison Township Park at the end of Hubbard Road was one of the priority sites in the Coastal Development Plan. The Township was one of the recipients of the funds the Port Authority received from the 2009 Capital Budget Bill. These funds are finally starting to funnel their way to the communities. Mr. Advey stated Madison Township already had \$200,000 in the bank, which together with the Capital Bill funds totaled to approximately \$500,000. They are currently in a RFP process for a design build. There will be a meeting tomorrow morning at 10:30 a.m. with the engineering and design shoreline contractors. Representatives from EPA, ODNR, Madison Township Trustees, and the Army Corp of Engineers and the Coastal Plan Committee will be present. The purpose of this meeting is to review the submitted proposals with the input of the agencies, allow them to adjust their proposals accordingly, and, ultimately, award the contract. The Trustees gave the committee a maximum figure of \$475,000 to be used for this project. The project will consist of three or four offshore barrier islands, depending on the permits. These islands will ideally be about 100 feet offshore. The Bathymetry Study, done with the help of the Port Authority, has been of great help in this project. They hope to get their permits in nine months to a year.

South Island Update – Eastlake

Mr. Urbanski reported on the purchase of South Island, which is an approximately six-acre island near the mouth of the Chagrin River. In 2007, the Eastlake Port Authority met with CRWP, Lake Metroparks and, put in an application to the ODNR Office of Coastal Management for a grant to purchase South Island. They received funding for about one-half of the purchase price. In 2009, they

purchased the island from the Chagrin River Lagoons Yacht Club. Lake Metroparks simultaneously purchased a conservation easement on the property that covered the remainder of the purchase cost and preserved it in perpetuity. The Port Authority paid the grant application fees. In addition, the Park District and the Port Authority worked out a management agreement for a lease agreement for the Park District.

North Island will probably be the next issue in the Chagrin River to plan for a potential acquisition. This is a much more complicated site with multiple landowners. However, Mr. Ubanski stated it should be fairly easy to track funding for this purchase.

State Capital Appropriation Update

Madison Township: Mr. Advey already commented on their appropriations received.

Perry Township: Mr. Boyd was at a Trustee meeting Tuesday. The Township has received their first portion of the \$300,000 awarded. He re-visited the Coastal Plan at this site with them. There is a possibility for beach and switchbacks. With an almost inverted erosion situation, the Trustees' immediate goal is to eventually pull that bluff back to a 3:1 slope. They have Oxbow Engineering in Painesville on staff and they are starting to do an assessment of what the potential impact would be on the ball field and drainage issues. Drainage issues will be addressed first. They will continue the funding research for hopeful beach creation. Getting people from the Senior Center to the water is probably going to be the next step. There is some debate on the subsequent phase of whether the bathymetry there will require breakwaters. ODNR seems inclined to believe there is some natural beach there. Next to Painesville Township, there is some pretty aggressive recession in the Perry Township area. They want to protect their Senior Center and the more active park with camping on the other side, which would also be a nice addition to the area.

Eastlake City: The City should have received their \$200,000 portion of the appropriation funding. There was some casual discussion that Eastlake Council plans to possibly use these funds as leverage on other acquisition projects in Eastlake. Mr. Cain appreciated Lake Metroparks' quick action on the conservation easement for South Island. Mr. Zeitz added that there were two more parcels of property or issues in the area along Corporation Creek and Lakeshore Blvd. that would connect with the Chagrin River Park. Also, there is land behind the beverage store owned by CEI that is useless to them and open to possible negotiations.

City of Mentor: Mr. Martin said that the City has put aside what they paid for the bathymetry study and are also waiting to hear what amount would be needed for preliminary engineering.

NEW BUSINESS

Small Harbor Dredging Support

At the last meeting, Mr. John Loftus of the Lake County Port Authority introduced a resolution of support for the small harbor dredging issue. Those at that meeting asked Jason to mock up a resolution of support so this Committee could pass one. Based out of Lake Michigan, this initiative is attempting to get the officials in Washington D.C. to look closer at the dredging issue in the non-commercial areas. The City of Mentor, the Lake County Port Authority, Madison Township and a few other communities have submitted support letters or resolutions from their councils. He asked the members to look over the resolution of support he had drafted to the Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition for membership. Mentor Harbor, Eastlake, Fairport Harbor and North Perry Village fit into this initiative.

Mr. Stephenson moved to approve the resolution of support as submitted for the Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition and Mr. Webster seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

Funding Opportunities

The first submittal for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding was due in January. Lake Metroparks submitted an application on the Grand River Watershed basin. Mr. Loftus and Mr. Boyd had taken a lot of time to look at this program's parameters and priorities and came to the conclusion that this Committee would do much better by focusing its attention to the appropriations side of gaining dollars for Lake County rather than the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative fund. No matter how they tweaked the proposals for the priority sites, they were not green or environmentally sensitive enough to rank high enough to receive the funding in comparison to the other agencies applying. They were not looking at the construction side of things. There were some wetland acquisition items, but nothing that was in the purview of the Coastal Plan Committee.

In the past two weeks, Mr. Loftus and Mr. Boyd submitted an appropriation request to Congressmen LaTourette, Brown and Voinovich for all the priority sites to get dollars for continued implementation of the Coastal Development Plan.

The Chair had issued a couple letters of support this past month for Mentor Harbor Channel Improvements (Port Authority) and for a grant for a Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District Watershed Coordinator to help the Marsh Area Regional Coalition. A lot of time has been spent on grant writing in all facets because of the current economic climate.

Community Updates:

Darrell Webster – The Western Reserve RC&D is also sending a letter of support for the Watershed Coordinator.

Dave Gilmer – He had nothing to add.

Mentor Harbor Yacht Club – Chuck Stevenson – They were getting ready to start dredging the channel again. Unfortunately, ice may present a problem for the preferred timing. Having to do this later puts them in a quandary because of a fish spawning period. He has submitted a letter to ODNR asking for an extension. He asked the City of Mentor and the Port Authority to write a letter of support for this action regarding the harbor entrance. One day the steel wall will completely erode because it is 80 years old. He personally would like to see this wall lined with stone. There is also talk of plans to put in a barrier island at the mouth of the channel. Unfortunately, these are two very expensive items.

Jason Boyd added that one of the Port Authority appropriations was for about \$5 million for one project in Mentor Harbor that would help the Mentor Harbor Yacht Club, the City and a smaller homeowners association. They have an ingress/egress situation with the sunken barge and the deteriorating conditions of the walls and something needs to be done.

Bob Martin said the problem for the City of Mentor is that this whole project takes place in the City of Mentor-on-the-Lake, which creates an issue for them. They needed to work with the Port Authority to get anything done. The Port Authority worked out a lease situation so public funds could be used in this channel.

Eastlake – Fred Haas - He had experienced these public/private funding issues in the 80's for a break-wall project. At that time, it was the first instance joint public and private funds had co-mingled for a project through NOACA. There are ways to get around the public-only money for a single project.

Bob Zeitz – He invited members to participate in the "Eat for Envirothon" fundraiser at Chester Tavern on April 22 from 6-9 p.m. 10% of what is spent there gets donated for the Envirothon, which is an environmental educational contest between high school students. This year the Northeast Ohio Regional is going to be in Geauga County, the State finals will be at Lake Erie College in Lake County and Nationals may be in California. Also, the Western Reserve Resource Conservation and

Development Council is involved with a national/regional meeting in Canton this year. All RC&D's will come together from a seven-state area. Both events are looking for donations.

N. Perry Village – Mayor Klco – He stated they were looking to have a grand opening of their marina and park improvements this year sometime. They have been having a slight problem with some sand build up. JJR will be out at a council meeting next Thursday at 7:00 p.m. to explain. They had a barge sitting out there for three months and some bad storms came in leaving behind a big sand bar. They will get that dredged out as soon as they can.

Mr. Boyd asked about a time or date on the anticipated dredging because Fairport may be interested. Mr. Klco thought it may be sometime in April, but wasn't sure.

Lake County Port Authority -Harry Allen – He expressed his and the Committee's sympathies to Dave Gilmer on his wife's passing. The Port Authority has a new board member, Mr. Eric Schnur, President of Lubrizol's Product Division. They are focusing inland on the Mentor community, Great Lakes Mall and individual businesses. They have access to \$18.3 million bonds. They need people with courage and ambition to apply.

Eastlake Port Authority – Mark Cain – He said he likes seeing the young people being involved. They are experiencing a real economic draught along the coastline. He hopes the new administrator in Fairport will come up with some new ideas to spur things along there and that things will not continue to sit dormant.

Mr. Boyd added that since Mr. McGuirk has come on as Administrator in Fairport, they have already worked out some zoning changes and have entered into a contract to do a whole zoning ordinance update on the river to accommodate mixed-use development.

He mentioned that this summer he and Mr. Allen brought some people who were interested in development in downtown Cleveland on a boat tour of the Fairport region to get an outside perspective. They seemed really impressed with our riverfront on the Fairport side and the potential it had. Mr. Allen said the key issue is to go for federal funding; however, you can't use public dollars for private initiatives. You have to get it in public hands before you can use public dollars.

Perry Township – Nancy Steele, Trustee – We are just starting out and waiting for some money to come in.

Perry Township – Mark Welch – Declined comment.

Lake Metroparks – Vince Urbanski - In dealing with appropriations, there is a lot of trust going into the process by the legislature. No matter how much you request, no politician wants to give money to a project that is going to fall flat on its face. A lot of times you only get one third of your ask. Go ahead and do the engineering work on a project. Show life in a project, advance the project, and continue to apply for funding. This seems to work well with the Park District. Also, five years ago this Committee was looking at applying for U.S. Army Engineer Corps funding, but didn't want to wait five to seven years to complete the process. Maybe this is the time to look at that source again for some place like Fairport Harbor and get in the queue for funding.

North Perry Village – Lorrie Taylor – Too new, nothing to add.

Mr. Zeitz commented that we do not have a true green project on any issue. We missed an opportunity of funding through Great Lakes Restoration because we didn't have one. He was interested in preserving 200 acres at the Lost Nation Airport, letting the development go around it, and preserving the center of it as green space forever.

The North island project might be a natural fit for the Great Lakes Restoration initiative.

Mr. Boyd suggested it would be to our benefit to get something moving on all seven of the sites we chose to support eight or nine years ago when we began the Coastal Development Plan. He thought land conservancy agencies would be much better equipped to do acquisition projects than the Planning Commission. We have never had a revenue stream. He also thought the bathymetry study could be considered as advancing the project.

Lake County Planning Commission – Jason Boyd – The Planning Commission, Soil & Water, and Stormwater received a Balance Growth Initiative grant of \$100,000 to do a detailed land use analysis of the tributaries that drain directly into Lake Erie from Fairport Harbor to the Arcola Creek encompassing approximately a 20,000-acre study area. The key to this plan is that it conceptually designates priority conservation, development and agricultural areas based on computer mapping. We were one of five projects across the state of Ohio who were selected. The communities who start to plan on these watershed boundaries instead of the red-dotted political boundaries will find money available for these projects. The State is putting dollars into projects where communities are working with their neighbors.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at the North Perry Village Community Center.

Mr. Welch moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. and Mr. Landeg seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".